

Message Text

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11

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AF-10 EA-11

EUR-25 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /180 W

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R 241639Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1985

UNCLAS RABAT 2309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR MO

SUBJECT: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: MOROCCAN PHOSPHATE
PRODUCTION

REF. : STATE 90131

1. IN RESPONSE REFTTEL, FOLLOWING IS CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE
STATUS MOROCCAN PRODUCTION PHOSPHATE ROCK AND DERIVATIVES.

2. MINE CAPACITY AND PRODUCTION: COMBINED 1973 PRODUCTION
KHOUREBGA AND YOUSSEFIA WAS 17,076,876 MT. 1974 PRODUCTION,
USING FULL PRESENT CAPACITY, WILL BE ESTIMATED 19,500,000 MT.

3. ADDITIONAL MINE CAPACITY: PRODUCTION SCHEDULED REACH AT
LEAST 26 MILLION MT BY 1977, ALMOST ENTIRELY BY IMPROVING
PRODUCTIVITY EXISTING MINES. PRINCIPAL BUYERS WILL BE IN W.
EUROPE (E.G. FRANCE, ITALY, U.K.), E. EUROPE (PARTICULARLY
POLAND), JAPAN AND PRC. SIGNIFICANT NEW CUSTOMER IN LATE 70'S
WILL BE USSR (SEE RABAT A-34). OVER LONGER TERM, NEW MINES
SCHEDULED FOR CONSTRUCTION BY GOM PHOSPHATE MONOPOLY, OFFICE
CHERIFIEN DES PHOSPHATES (OCP) ARE:

(A) OPEN PIT AT BEN GUERIR NEAR MARRAKECH, CONSTRUCTION NOW
UNDER WAY WITH INITIAL OUTPUT TO BE ONE MILLION TONS IN 1977.

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ULTIMATE ANNUAL CAPACITY 10 MILLION TONS BY EARLY 1980'S. SIX LAYERS EXPLOITABLE PHOSPHATES. GRADE TO BE 68 BPL BENEFICIATED TO 75. SOME ROCK MAY BE PROCESSED INTO PHOSPHORIC ACID (SEE BELOW).

(B) OPEN PIT AT SIDI HAJJAJ (EAST OF KHOURIBGA). ULTIMATE CAPACITY 10 MILLION TONS ANNUALLY, HIGH-GRADE ROCK (75-82 BPL) BY MID-1980'S. NOW ONLY IN PLANNING STAGE.

4. FERTILIZER/PHOSPHORIC ACID CAPACITY/OUTPUT: IN 1973, MAROC-CHIMIE COMPLEX AT SAFI (IN EFFECT, AN OCP SUBSIDIARY) PRODUCED NEAR FULL CAPACITY AT 304,000 MT TRIPLE SUPER PHOSPHATE (TSP), (ALMOST ALL FOR EXPORT) AND 36,000 MT AMMONIUM SULPHURIC PHOSPHATE (ASP). INTERMEDIATE PHOSPHORIC ACID PRODUCTION AT MAROC CHIMIE IS 120,000 TONS. COMBINED WITH SMALL PRODUCTION MIXED FERTILIZERS AT ONE PRIVATE PLANT IN CASABLANCA, TOTAL 1973 FERTILIZER PRODUCTION WAS 417,000 MT. DURING FIRST SEMESTER THIS YEAR, SMALL MIXED FERTILIZER PLANT HAS BEGUN PRODUCTION IN MAROC-CHIMIE COMPLEX AT ANNUAL RATE OF 75,000 MT (EVENTUAL CAPACITY TO BE DOUBLE THIS).

5. ADDITIONAL PLANTS:

(A) IN JUNE, 1973, OCP AWARDED CONTRACT TO WEST GERMAN GROUP UHDE-SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT AND POLISH FIRM POLIMEX-CEKOP TO BUILD DH 400 MILLION MAROC PHOSPHORE I CHEMICAL COMPLEX AT SAFI. CONSTRUCTION NOW UNDER WAY WITH PRODUCTION SCHEDULED BEGIN OCTOBER, 1975. COMPLEX TO CONSIST OF (1) 3,000 TON/DAY SULFURIC ACID PLANT, TO BE BUILT BY THE POLIES; (2) 1,000 TON/DAY PHOSPHORIC ACID PLANT USING NISSAN PROCESS. PRODUCT WILL BE SHIPPED IN 52-54 PERCENT SOLUTION, PRODUCED FROM ANNUAL INPUT OF 1.1 MILLION TONS OF YOUSSEFIA PHOSPHATES; (3) 205,000 MONOAMMONIAC PHOSPHATE PLANT, USING FISON'S PROCESS.

(B) OCP HAS ALSO DECIDED ON SECOND PHOSPHORIC ACID COMPLEX, MAROC PHOSPHORE II, ALSO AT SAFI. BIDS TO BE LET WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS. INITIAL PRODUCTION, PLANNED FOR 1977, TO BE SAME AS MPI. PHOSPHATE WILL COME FROM EITHER YOUSSEFIA OR BEN GUERIR MINES. ADDITIONAL PHOSPHORIC ACID PLANTS ARE PLANNED FOR 1980'S.

(C) NEW CAPACITY PRESENTLY BEING ADDED TO MAROC-CHIMIE (BY FRENCH ENGINEERING FIRM SPIE-BATIGNOLLES) WILL INCREASE TSP OUTPUT TO ONE MILLION TONS BY 1975-76. NEW PLANT WILL INCLUDE TWO UNITS FOR PRODUCTION SULFURIC ACID (1,000 TONS/DAY) AND ONE FOR PRODUCTION PHOSPHORIC ACID (500 TONS/DAY).

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6. NO POTENTIAL PRODUCTION CONSTRAINTS EVIDENT AT THIS TIME.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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